

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for negotiation or re-negotiation of at least one parameter for use in the operation of a protocol that controls data transmission between first communication units and third communication units via second communication units,

where said protocol is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

said method comprising:

starting, in case that an existing association of a first communication unit that was associated with a third communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said second type, an initiative for an exchange of at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter between protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of a third communication unit of said second type by transmitting, from a protocol entity of said first communication unit, a negotiation message containing a user-defined value for said parameter to a protocol entity of said third communication unit of said second type

~~, wherein said transmitting is only performed if~~

~~a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type and~~

~~a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter~~

~~needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated both produced positive results, wherein both checkings are performed after said change of said association of said first communication unit has occurred.~~

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented) A first communication unit according to claim 31,
wherein said first communication unit is a mobile station of a mobile radio system,
wherein said second communication units are base transceiver stations, and
wherein said third communication units are mobile-services switching centres.

6. (previously presented) A first communication unit according to claim 5,
wherein said third communication unit of said first type is a mobile-services switching centre of a mobile network operated according to the universal mobile telecommunications system standard or a derivative thereof, and
wherein said third communication unit of said second type is a mobile-services switching centre of a mobile network operated according to the global system for mobile communications standard or a derivative thereof.

7. (previously presented) A first communication unit according to claim 5,
wherein said protocol is a circuit switched, non-transparent single- and/or multi-link data protocol with an automatic repeat request.

8. (previously presented) A first communication unit according to claim 7,
wherein said protocol is a radio link protocol.

9. (previously presented) A first communication unit according to claim 7

wherein said parameter defines a value of a re-sequencing timer that guards a difference between delays of frames transmitted on different physical links within a multi-link protocol.

10. (previously presented) A first communication unit according to claim 31,

wherein said protocol is a single- and/or multi-link data protocol, and

wherein said checking whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type comprises checking whether said data transmission between said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type is a multi-link transmission or whether there is a possibility that a single-link transmission will be upgraded to a multi-link transmission later.

11. (previously presented) A first communication unit according to claim 10,

wherein said checking whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated comprises checking whether a value for said re-sequencing timer was defined by a user of said mobile station.

12. (currently amended) A method for ~~negotiation or re-negotiation of at least one a~~ parameter ~~for use in the operation of~~ a protocol that controls data transmission between first communication units and third communication units via second communication units,

~~where said protocol is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,~~

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist second communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

said method comprising:

~~transmitting~~exchanging, when an existing association of said first communication unit with a former second communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit of said second type, said new second communication unit being associated with the same third communication unit with which said former second communication unit was associated, a ~~negotiation~~re-negotiation message containing a value for said parameter of said protocol between~~from~~ a protocol entity of said third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit ~~to~~and a protocol entity of said first communication unit,

wherein said protocol is operated by protocol entities in said first communication unit and said third communication unit before and after said change of said association.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A third communication unit according to claim 35,

wherein said first communication unit is a mobile station of a mobile radio system,

wherein said second communication units are base transceiver stations, and

wherein said third communication unit is a mobile-services switching centre.

17. (previously presented) A third communication unit according to claim 16,

wherein one out of said first and second types of said second communication unit is a base transceiver station that is connected to its associated mobile-services switching centre via a lower-delay network, and

wherein the other type of said second communication unit is a base transceiver station that is connected to its associated mobile-services switching centre via a higher-delay network.

18. (previously presented) A third communication unit according to claim 17,
wherein said lower-delay network is a time division multiplex network.

19. (previously presented) A third communication unit according to claim 17,
wherein said higher-delay network is at least partially based on the internet protocol or a satellite connection.

20. (previously presented) A third communication unit according to claim 17,
wherein said mobile-services switching centre is either operated according to the universal mobile telecommunications system standard, the global system for mobile communications standard or a derivative thereof.

21. (previously presented) A third communication unit according to claim 35,
wherein said protocol is a circuit switched, non-transparent single- and/or multi-link data protocol with automatic repeat request (ARQ).

22. (previously presented) A third communication unit according to claim 21,
wherein said protocol is a radio link protocol.

23. (previously presented) A third communication unit according to claim 21,
wherein said parameter defines a value of an acknowledgement timer that guards a re-transmission period after which a re-transmission of a not-acknowledged frame within a protocol with Automatic repeat request may be started.

24. (previously presented) A third communication unit according to claim 21,
wherein said parameter defines a value of a re-sequencing timer that guards a difference between delays of frames transmitted on different physical links within a multi-link protocol.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A method for negotiation of at least one parameter for use in the operation of a protocol that controls data transmission between first communication units and third communication units via second communication units,

where said protocol is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit , and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

said method comprising:

transmitting, in case that it is possible that an association of said first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said first type may be changed to an association of said first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said second type,

at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter from a protocol entity of said first communication unit to said third communication unit of said first type or from a protocol entity of said third communication unit of said first type to a protocol entity of said first communication unit prior to said change of associations.

27. (previously presented) A first communication unit according to claim 36,
wherein said first communication unit is configured to check whether it is possible

that said data transmission between said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type is a multi-link data transmission that requires a definition of a re-sequencing timer as said parameter for said protocol, and

to check whether a value for said re-sequencing timer is available as a basis for negotiation.

28. (previously presented) A computer readable memory in which a computer program product is loaded, the comprising software code portions, said software code portions when run on a computer for performing the actions of claim 1.

29. (currently amended) A system comprising first communication units, second communication units and third communication units, wherein the system is for data transmission between said first communication units of said system and said third communication units of said system via said second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

wherein when an existing association of said first communication unit with a former second communication unit that was associated with a third communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said second type,

said protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of said third communication unit of said second type exchange at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter,

wherein said exchange of said at least one negotiation message is started by said first communication unit by transmitting, from a protocol entity of said first communication unit, a negotiation message containing a user-defined value for said parameter to a protocol entity of said third communication unit of said second type

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~~wherein said transmitting is only performed if~~

~~a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type and~~

~~a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated both produced positive results, and wherein both checkings are performed after said change of said association of said first communication unit has occurred.~~

30. (previously presented) A system comprising first communication units, second communication units and third communication units, wherein the system is for data transmission between said first communication units of said system and said third communication units of said system via said second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

wherein in case that it is possible that an association of a first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said first type may be changed to an association of said first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said second type,

said protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of said third communication unit of said first type exchange at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter prior to said change of associations.

31. (currently amended) A first communication unit useable in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

said first communication unit comprising:

a transmitter configured to start, in case that an existing association of said first communication unit that was associated with a third communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said second type, an initiative for an exchange of at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter between protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of a third communication unit of said second type by transmitting, from a protocol entity of said first communication unit, a negotiation message containing a

user-defined value for said parameter to a protocol entity of said third communication unit of said second type

;

~~wherein said transmitting is only performed if~~

~~a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type and~~

~~a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated both produced positive results, and wherein both checkings are performed after said change of said association of said first communication has occurred.~~

32. (currently amended) A third communication unit useable in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

wherein said third communication unit is a third communication unit of said second type and comprises:

a receiver configured to receive, in case an existing association of a first communication unit with a former second communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit that is associated with said third communication unit of said second type, at least one negotiation message containing a value for said parameter

exchanged between protocol entities of said first communication unit and protocol entities of said third communication unit of said second type, wherein said exchange of said at least one negotiation message is started by said first communication unit by transmitting, from a protocol entity of said first communication unit, a negotiation message containing a user-defined value for said parameter to a protocol entity of said third communication unit of said second type

~~, wherein said transmitting is only performed if~~

~~a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type and~~

~~a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated both produced positive results, and wherein both checkings are performed after said change of said association of said first communication unit has occurred.~~

33. (currently amended) A system comprising first communication units and second communication units, wherein the system is for data transmission between said first communication units of said system and said third communication units of said system via said second communication units of said system,

where a parameter of a protocol that controls said data transmission is re-negotiable~~operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,~~

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist second communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

wherein, when an existing association of said first communication unit with a former second communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit of said second type, said new second communication unit being associated with the same third

communication unit with which said former second communication unit was associated, a re-negotiation message containing a value for said parameter of said protocol is exchanged between a protocol entity of said third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit ~~performs the step of transmitting a negotiation message containing a value for said parameter to~~ and a protocol entity of said first communication unit,

wherein said protocol is operated by protocol entities in said first communication unit and said third communication unit before and after said change of said association.

34. (currently amended) A first communication unit useable in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a parameter of a protocol that controls said data transmission is re-negotiable~~operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,~~

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist second communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

said first communication unit comprising:

a ~~receiver-processor~~ configured to receive~~exchange~~, when an existing association of said first communication unit with a former second communication unit of said first type is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit of said second type, said new second communication unit being associated with the same third communication unit with which said former second communication unit was associated, a ~~negotiation~~ re-negotiation message containing a value for said parameter of said protocol between ~~from~~ a protocol entity of said third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit and a protocol entity of said first communication unit.

wherein said protocol is operated by protocol entities in said first communication unit and said third communication unit before and after said change of said association.

35. (currently amended) A third communication unit useable in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a parameter of a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated ~~by protocol entities in said first and third communication re-negotiable units,~~

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit,

where there exist second communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of said parameter,

said third communication unit comprising:

a ~~transmitter-processor~~ configured to transmit~~exchange~~, when an existing association of a first communication unit with a former second communication unit of said first type that was associated with said third communication unit is changed to an association of said first communication unit with a new second communication unit of said second type that is also associated with said third communication unit, a re-negotiation~~negotiation~~ message containing a value for said parameter of said protocol ~~to between a protocol entity of said third communication unit associated with said new second communication unit and a protocol entity of said first communication unit,~~

wherein said protocol is operated by protocol entities in said first communication unit and said third communication unit before and after said change of said association.

36. (previously presented) A first communication unit useable in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

said first communication unit comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit, in case that it is possible that an association of said first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said first type may be changed to an association of said first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said second type, at least one negotiation message, which contains a value for said parameter, from a protocol entity of said first communication unit to a protocol entity of said third communication unit prior to said change of associations.

37. (previously presented) A third communication unit useable in a system for data transmission between first communication units of said system and third communication units of said system via second communication units of said system,

where a protocol that controls said data transmission is operated by protocol entities in said first and third communication units,

where a first communication unit is associated with at least one second communication unit,

where a second communication unit is associated with at least one third communication unit, and

where there exist third communication units of at least a first and second type that require different choices of at least one parameter for use in the operation of said protocol,

wherein said third communication unit is a third communication unit of said first type and comprises:

a transmitter configured to transmit, in case that it is possible that an association of a first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with said third communication unit may be changed to an association of said first communication unit with a second communication unit that is associated with a third communication unit of said second type, at least one negotiation message, which contains a value for said parameter, from a protocol entity of said third communication unit to a protocol entity of said first communication unit prior to said change of associations.

38. (previously presented) A computer readable memory in which a computer program is loaded, the computer program product comprising software code portions, said software code portions when run on a computer for performing the actions of claim 12.

39. (previously presented) A computer readable memory in which a computer program is loaded, the computer program product comprising software code portions, said software code portions when run on a computer for performing the actions of claim 26.

40. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said transmitting is only performed if a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type and a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated both produced positive results, wherein both checkings are performed after said change of said association of said first communication unit has occurred, and wherein said checking whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated comprises checking whether a value for said parameter was defined by a user of said first communication unit.

41. (new) The system according to claim 29, wherein said transmitting is only performed if a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first

communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type and a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated both produced positive results, wherein both checkings are performed after said change of said association of said first communication unit has occurred, and wherein said checking whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated comprises checking whether a value for said parameter was defined by a user of said first communication unit.

42. (new) The first communication unit according to claim 31, wherein said transmitting is only performed if a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type and a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated both produced positive results, wherein both checkings are performed after said change of said association of said first communication has occurred, and wherein said checking whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated comprises checking whether a value for said parameter was defined by a user of said first communication unit.

43. (new) The third communication unit according to claim 32, wherein said transmitting is only performed if a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter is required for the operation of said protocol between said protocol entities of said first communication unit and said third communication unit of said second type and a checking performed by said first communication unit whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated both produced positive results, wherein both checkings are performed after said change of said association of said first communication unit has occurred, and wherein said checking whether said parameter needs to be negotiated or re-negotiated comprises checking whether a value for said parameter was defined by a user of said first communication unit.

44. (new) The third communication unit according to claim 16, wherein said mobile station, said base transceiver stations and said mobile-services switching centres are operated according to the same standard, which standard is one of the universal mobile telecommunications standard and the global system for mobile communications standard.